



**Waganakising Odawak**  
**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**  
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**Immediate Release**  
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***Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians’  
minimum wage jumps to \$9.25 today***

Chairman Fred Kiogima announced that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians minimum wage jumps to \$9.25 per hour on July 23, 2014, for all governmental and enterprise employees. “We are proud to be leading the way in recognizing that minimum wage needs and close the gap to become a real living wage, especially for hardworking parents trying to raise a family,” said Chairman Kiogima. “It is sad to say that in one of the world’s wealthiest nations,” Kiogima continued, “a full time job at Michigan’s minimum wage keeps families in poverty and forces them to seek assistance from state and locals agencies. We hope to empower our employees to be more self-supporting and self-sufficient.”

In 2013, Tribal Council amended the Tribe’s Fair Employment Statute to incrementally increase the Tribe’s minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour in 2013, \$9.25 per hour in 2014, and \$10.50 per hour by July 23, 2015. As of July, 23, 2014, the Tribe’s minimum wage is \$9.25 per hour for all LTBB Governmental, Odawa Casino, Odawa Fishery, and Biindigen C-Store employees.

“I’m proud that the leadership of the Tribe has recognized the high cost of living in our area and the value of each employee working for the Tribe or one of its enterprises. Michigan’s minimum wage remains at \$7.40, which is woefully inadequate given the rising cost of food, housing, and childcare in this area,” said Denise Petoskey, Human Resources Director for the Tribe.

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is the second largest employer in Emmet County, employing over 800 people.

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